

BIG-VEDA SANHITA.

FIEST ASHTAKA.

FIRST ADHYAYA.

ANUYAKA L

I.

MA&DAUL L

The first *SuUa* or Hymn is addressed to AGNI,
author is If ADHUCHCHKANDAS, the son of YISWASITEBA. The
metre is *Gdy&tri*.

L I glorify Aaisri^a the high priest of the sacri-
Varga i.

^a A great variety of etymologies are devised to explain the meaning of the term. *Agm* the most of which are, obviously, fanciful, but the import of which expresses the notions entertained ' of his character and. functions. On earth, he is invoked (niyate) the first (*agra*) of the gods ; in heaven, he is the leader (*agr&ni*) of the hosts of the gods j he is the first of the gods {*prathamodevatdndni*) -, he was the first-horn of the gods '(sa vd esMgre devatdndm, -ajdyafa}. In these derivations, A\$ni is compounded, irregularly, out of *agra*, first, and *rii*, to lead. It is also derived from *wga*, body ; because he offers his own substance, in the lighting of the sacrificial fire. The author of a *Nimhta*, or glossary, *Qalled.SthuldsMhzvm*, derives it from the root *Jcnii*, with the negative prefixed (*afaiopayati* he who does not spare the fuel. Another compiler of a glossary, *Sakapiini*) derives the word from three rfrots, *i*, to go, *anfi* to anoint, and *ddh*^ to bum, collectively f the VOL. 1. - 5